

07 August

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 13

 Let's hear your story

1. Why did the crowd follow Jesus according to v.2? **(They saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.)**
2. Why did Jesus ask Philip; "where shall we buy food?" in v.5? **(Philip was a resident of Bethsaida; see John 12:21.)**
3. How did Philip respond to Jesus' question in v.7? **(Two hundred denarii "8 months of wages" is not enough for the crowd.)**
4. What did the boy have in his hand in v.9? **(5 barley loaves & 2 fish.)**

 Let's go deeper

5. How many men were present in v.10? **(Five thousand.)**
6. What did Jesus do with the loaves and fish in v.11? **(He took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them to the disciples.)**
7. What was the last task Jesus gave the disciples in v.12? **(To gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.)**
8. How many baskets did the disciples collect afterwards in v.13? **(12.)**
9. What Old Testament scripture does v.14 refer to? **(Deuteronomy 18:15.)**

 Let's apply this

10. John 6:9; "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Through this little boy we see that God loves to work through His people. Jesus could have created bread at the snap of His finger. He didn't need the five loaves and two fish, but He loves to involve us in His work.

- Share your meal this week with someone.
- What resources do you have to bring to Jesus?
- Allow Jesus to multiply it this week.
- Allow God to use you as you surrender to His plans and purposes.

SUMMARY:

Gospel of John: Week 13 (Jesus feeds the 5000.)

Read: John 6:1 – 14

v.1 – 4; This was the second Passover in John's gospel (John 2:13 and John 11:55).

v.5 – 6; Philip was a resident in Bethsaida (John 12:21), and would have been familiar with food sources in the area.

v.7; Philip doesn't give a location where they can buy food. He explains to Jesus how expensive it would be to buy bread for them all - eight month's wages. Philip emphasizes how impossible it would be to buy bread.

v.8; Andrew has little faith – pointing to the boy who had five loaves and two fish. Andrew emphasizes how tiny their resources are in feeding the crowd.

v.9; This little boy has five barley loaves, and barley was the cheapest bread of that day. It was the food of the poor. The poor ate barley. And two small fish – no bigger than sardines. It was the standard meal for those in poverty. Through this little boy we see that God loves to work through His people, a little lunchbox in the hands of a BIG Jesus is more than enough.

v.10; Jesus now organizes for the miracle that is about to take place. He gets the crowds arranged in an orderly fashion with paths between groups of fifty. Now the disciples can easily determine how much bread should be brought to each group.

v.11; Jesus takes the loaves and fish, then He lifts His eyes to heaven and "gave thanks." The word means "to express appreciation for benefits or blessings, give thanks, express thanks, render / return thanks." The Jews took meals as an opportunity to offer praise and blessing to God.

v.12 – 13; The disciples are very tired by now, but Jesus gives them one further task to pick up the broken pieces of bread that are scattered over the hillside. When their task is completed, they come back with all twelve baskets full.

Why does Jesus have the tired disciples do this? To make the point to them that God's provision that day has been more than enough to meet the need. Each disciple can feel the weight of his basket of bread as he bears it back to Jesus and he will never forget the abundance of that day.

v.14; The people quickly made the connection between Moses who brought manna (food from heaven); and Jesus' miracle. It is a reference to Deuteronomy 18:15.